

Amendment dated March 16, 2007

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20-31 and 33-37 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 20, 21, 23, 28, 29 and 33 are amended, and claim 32 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 22, 24 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claim 20 is amended to incorporate subject matter from dependent claim 21, and claims 23, 28, 29 and 33 are amended to correct minor informalities. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 20, 21, 23, 28, 29 and 33 do not raise new issues requiring further consideration. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

I. Restriction Requirement

Applicant maintains the traversal of the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Patent Office Communication dated August 22, 2006. It is noted that claims 22, 24 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested, that upon allowance of generic claim 20, claims 22, 24 and 27 be rejoined and considered.

Amendment dated March 16, 2007

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2006

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 20, 21, 25-28, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,570,267 to Ma (hereinafter “Ma”). Claim 32 is cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to the remaining claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a method for fixing a flat display panel in a monitor. Independent claim 20 recites aligning a display panel and a fixing frame with a back cover, coupling the display panel to the back cover using a fastener, the fastener being inserted from the display panel to the back cover, and coupling a front cover to the back cover, wherein a strength of the front cover is less than a strength of the back cover. Ma neither discloses nor suggests at least such features, or the claimed combination of features.

Ma discloses in Figure 1 (referred to in the Office Action) a prior art LCD module which is rotatably coupled to a main frame E of a notebook computer. The LCD module includes a display unit A mounted within a bottom cover B and a top cover C covering the bottom cover B. In assembling the LCD module, the display unit A is first fastened to the bottom cover B using a first set of screws, and then the top cover C is fastened to the bottom cover B by a second set of screws.

It would be well understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the notebook computer, LCD module, and associated assembly system disclosed by Ma is not properly compared to the method for fixing a flat panel display as recited in independent claim 20. More specifically, as set forth in, for example, paragraphs 51 and 56 of the present application, the recited back cover is more robust than the front cover so that a circuit board may be coupled to

Amendment dated March 16, 2007

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2006

the back cover, and some type of support structure or base which supports the flat panel display may be fixed to the back surface of the back cover. Additionally, Ma discloses that the top cover C is fastened to the bottom cover B by a second set of screws. It is unlikely that one of ordinary skill in the art would employ such a fastening mechanism through the front cover recited in independent claim 20, due at least in part to the relative weakness of the recited front cover. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not apply the method recited in independent claim 20 to a notebook computer such as that disclosed by Ma, nor would one of ordinary skill in the art be motivated to make such a modification to the system and method disclosed by Ma.

However, even if one were to improperly compare the notebook computer, LCD module, and associated assembly system disclosed by Ma with the method for fixing a flat panel display in a monitor as recited in independent claim 20, Ma still neither discloses nor suggests any type of fixing frame which is aligned with the display unit A, nor that the display unit A and such a fixing frame are simultaneously coupled to the bottom cover B using a fastener that is inserted from the display unit A to the bottom cover B. Rather, the second set of screws extends through the top cover C into the bottom cover B. Thus, Ma neither discloses nor suggests the aligning and coupling steps recited in independent claim 20. Further, Ma makes is silent as to the relative strength of the bottom cover B and the top cover C. However, as set forth above, it would be well understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that in order to support the insertion of the second set of screws therethrough and the subsequent load of the components coupled thereto, the top cover C is likely equally as strong as the bottom cover B. Thus, Ma neither

Amendment dated March 16, 2007

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2006

discloses nor suggests that a strength of the top (front) cover C is less than a strength of the bottom (back) cover B, as recited in independent claim 20.

The Office Action asserts that an alleged outer frame which surrounds the display unit A shown in Figure 1 of Ma may be compared to the recited mixing frame. However, Ma makes no such specific disclosure of an outer frame in the written description of Figure 1. Rather, the display unit A shown in Figure 1 of Ma is shown as a single unit, without any type of separately labeled or referenced outer frame. It would be well understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that a notebook computer such as that disclosed by Ma uses a lead wire D to connect the display module and the main body. Thus, a notebook computer would not need a fixing frame to support a display module. In contrast, a general monitor such as, for example, a monitor as recited in independent claim 20, typically does not rely on a main body for support, and thus a power circuit board and display driving circuit may be supported by a component of the display itself, such as, for example, a fixing frame.

Additionally, it is noted that Ma discloses certain disadvantages associated with the structure in Figure 1 of Ma. More specifically, Ma discloses that this structure requires complicated mounting processes and makes necessary repair work difficult. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Ma teaches away from use of the structure shown in Figure 1, and thus one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to Ma in developing this type of structure for assembly of a LCD module.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is not anticipated by Ma, and thus the rejection of independent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Ma should be

Amendment dated March 16, 2007

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2006

withdrawn. Dependent claims 21, 25-28 and 33 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which they depend, as well as for their features.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 20, 21 and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Figure 1 and pages 2-4 of the present application. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The features recited in independent claim 20 are set forth above. Figure 1 of the present application neither discloses nor suggests such features, or the claimed combination of features.

Figure 1 of the present application discloses a flat display monitor 1 with an LCD module 4 positioned between front and back covers 5 and 2, respectively. During assembly, the LCD module 4 is fixed to a fixing frame 3 by a first screw group 6. A second screw group 7 is used to couple this assembly to the front cover 5, and then a third screw group 8 is used to couple the back cover 2 to the front cover 5. As discussed in paragraphs 15-19 of the present application, this assembly requires the use of three different screw groups each having a plurality of screws. Further, the majority of the weight of the LCD module 4 is borne by the relatively weak front cover 5, thus requiring additional reinforcing structure. Neither Figure 1 of the present application nor the accompanying description thereof discloses or suggests aligning a display panel and a fixing frame with a back cover, or coupling the display panel to the back cover using a fastener that is inserted from the display panel to the back cover, as recited in independent claim 20.

Amendment dated March 16, 2007

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2006

Further, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to align a display panel on a fixing frame and then to simultaneously attach the aligned components to a back cover rather than to a front cover based on what is shown in Figure 1 and discussed on pages 2-4 of the present application. Among the numerous deficiencies set forth in the present application (see paragraphs 15-19 of the present application) with respect to assembly of the LCD module 4 shown in Figure 1 is the complexity and related cost of assembly with numerous screw groups required, and the added complexity and costs associated with a front cover 5 which can adequately support the LCD module 4.

The Office Action asserts that the method recited in independent claim 20 is a mere reversal of the essential working parts of the LCD module 4 shown in Figure 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Aligning and coupling the LCD module 4 and fixing frame 3 to the back cover 2 rather than to the front cover 5 requires a complete redesign of the back cover 2 to receive the appropriate coupling and fastening elements. These additional coupling and fastening elements in the back cover 2 would have to be designed with other fixing elements of the back cover 2 (such as, for example, those elements which allow the monitor 1 to be positioned on a stand or a fixed to a mounting surface). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the method recited in independent claim 20 requires more than mere reversal of the essential working parts of the LCD module 4 shown in Figure 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is allowable over Figure 1 of the present application and the accompanying written description thereof, and thus the rejection of independent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Figure 1 and pages 2-4 of

Amendment dated March 16, 2007

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2006

the present application should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 21 and 25-31 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claims 23 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ma in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,550 to Ohgami et al. (hereinafter “Ohgami”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 23 and 34-36 are allowable over Ma at least for the reasons set for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, Ohgami is merely cited as allegedly teaching the use of a hook and a hook receiving portion, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Ma. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 23 and 34-36 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejections of claims 23 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ma and Ohgami should be withdrawn.

V. **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

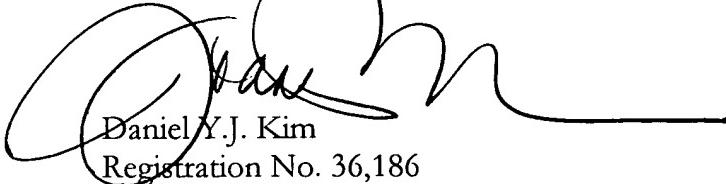
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

Amendment dated March 16, 2007

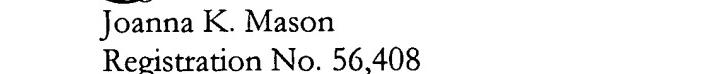
Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2006

concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and
please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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